



PRESS RELEASE

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Sheep Inventory

Iowa: All sheep and lambs inventory at 235,000 head is down 10,000 head from last year. Total breeding stock at 170,000 head decreased by three percent from a year ago. Compared to last year, market sheep and lambs decreased to 65,000 head, while the lamb crop decreased five percent to 205,000 head.

United States: All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two consecutive year to year increases for the first time since 1987 and 1988.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006, totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005.

Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings.

The 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2005 was 37.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.71 per pound for a total value of 26.3 million dollars, down 12 percent from 29.9 million dollars in 2004.

**All Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class,
Iowa and United States, January 1, 2005-2006**

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Sheep and Lambs	245	235	96	6,135.0	6,230.0	102
Total Breeding Sheep	175	170	97	4,533.0	4,639.0	102
Ewes	142	132	93	3,572.5	3,657.0	102
Rams	7	7	100	190.0	196.0	103
Replacement Lambs	26	31	119	770.5	786.0	102
Total Market	70	65	93	1,602.0	1,591.0	99
	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
Lamb Crop	215	205	95	4,096.0	4,125.0	101

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